

Catering and Free School Meal Details at Severn Vale School

We are aware that the catering options are very different as your child progresses through secondary school, including the provision of free school meals (FSM).

Some pupils find the choices available overwhelming and can go a little haywire to start with! Please discuss food arrangements with your child, along with any limits you would like them to stick to, this avoids overdrafts building up or disappointed children when they are refused their choices. It would also be beneficial to discuss FSM arrangements with them to ensure they get the most from their allowance each day and don't spend more than their entitlement, unless you are happy for them to do so.

Our catering system is cash less so pupils are not expected to carry money. You are able to top up your child's account using the Parentpay system. Parentpay also allows you to see what your child buys from our kitchen each day. Pupils use their fingerprint to buy their food, this takes money direct from their lunch account. Please note it can take up to 30 minutes for your Parentpay transaction to reach our school catering system, it would therefore be ideal to top up a lunch account the night before it is needed in school. We will contact all parents on a regular basis if their child's account goes overdrawn, as a gentle reminder to top up.

If your child qualifies for free school meals, a daily allowance will be added from the school onto their lunch account. At the end of each day, any unused allowance is transferred back to the school so is not carried forward. If your child chooses to spend their FSM allowance during morning break, they will not have enough money left to buy a meal at lunchtime. If your child spends more than their daily allowance, the additional cost will be taken from their lunch account, which will need to be funded by you. Please let us know if you do not wish your child to spend more than their FSM allowance each day.

We would generally allow a child to spend up to a maximum of £6 throughout each day. We do not generally allow an overdraft on their account, although we would never see a child without food during the school day so will authorise the cost of lunch for them in that situation. You are able to set specific limits on your child's account, such as a daily spend limit as well as adding restrictions and dietary requirements.

Your child will have many choices throughout their day as our kitchen staff serve morning break and lunch options. Food is served to year groups in their allocated zones.

A 2 week menu is published on the school website and updated each term. Typical menus are as follows –

Morning break - fresh-made pizza, breakfast rolls, burritos and paninis, fruit, pastries and drinks.

Lunch - hot lunch, vegetarian option, pasta pots, paninis, wraps, baguettes, puddings, cakes, fruit pots, drinks and snacks.

Jacket potatoes and salad pots can be pre-ordered (this is a temporary adjustment during Covid – they are usually available daily).

Meal deals are available daily.

We have 3 meal deal options, which are the same price as our daily FSM allowance.

- **Hot meal deal** – Main meal, or vegetarian option + choice of dessert (regular jelly pot / small tray bake cake / regular grape pot)
- **Cold meal deal** – Filled baguette + choice of dessert (regular jelly pot / small tray bake cake / regular grape pot)
- **Pasta meal deal** - Daily pasta pot + choice of dessert (regular jelly pot / small tray bake cake / regular grape pot)

All children, FSM or otherwise can benefit from the deals but meal deals ensure FSM pupils can have a substantial lunch with their allowance. They are of course free to choose, along with all pupils so can buy alternative options with their allowance. Our system also means that FSM children are not identified in any way to their peers.

If you would like any information on school lunch accounts, spending, Parentpay or FSM, or would like to set specific spending limits for your child, please contact the Finance Office: email finance@severnvaleschool.com Phone 01452 720458 option 2